

**East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)**  
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:** Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Richard Romer, Kristin McConnell, Elisse Barnes, Kenneth Flemmer, Enesha Miller, Donald Hague, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie and Laiza Otero

**Guests Present:** Evelyn Solar Hamilton, Les Hamilton, Ed Weiler, Dan Wilhem, LeYaffe-Stark, Eugene Gooden, Adam Ambrogr, Mark Pharaoh, Mara Parker, Brian Anleu, Vikki Garcia,

**Staff Present:** Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh and Linda Cooper.

**New ECCAB Members** were welcomed, introduced and officially seated – Kenneth Flemmer, Donald Hague, Enesha Miller, Kristin McConnell, Elisse Barnes, and Laiza Otero.

**Community attendee(s)** were provided the opportunity to raise concerns that they wanted to have addressed at the appropriate time during the meeting. Issues raised included the need for the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs to conduct community outreach and education on accessory apartments/dwellings and to provide incentives that promotes affordable housing.

**Approval of the October 4, 2017 Meeting Summary:** A motion was made to approve the October 4, 2017 Meeting Summary. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Presentation by Special Guests: George Leventhal,** Montgomery County At-Large Councilmember, led a discussion addressing County Council activities and area of interest to the East County. Topics discussed are summarized as follows:

- The needs of the East County have been elevated in concern to the County Council and the services required by the community are getting a greater focus.
- Enhanced public transportation is coming with the BRT beginning in 2020. The Bus Rapid Transit System is a high priority due to its relative importance to the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan. There will be three BRT Open Houses on Nov. 15, 16, and 20.
- More pressure needs to be placed on EDENS (owner/developer) to begin the redevelopment of Burtonsville Crossing by emphasizing the fact that it will be an end terminus for the BRT.
- He wants to get the County Government at higher levels to focus on neighborhood economic development. In the East County, these efforts have been taken on by Jewru Bandeh, Regional Director.

Questions were posed to and addressed by Mr. Leventhal, including discussions on the following topics:

- Ride On bus access to future BRT terminals to provide neighborhood access to job locations;
- General direction of the Dept. of Parks & Recreation, including the issue of funding for Hillandale Park renovation;
- Public access to data obtained from the survey of county residents;
- Workforce development related to the FDA and other employers. A suggestion was made to invite Ellie Giles, CEO of WorkSource Montgomery, to speak at a future ECCAB meeting;
- Marketing of Greater White Oak to attract new companies to provide jobs. Mr. Leventhal emphasized (i) the constraints on government to compel private investment, and (ii) the long-term, 30-year development window for the Master Plan;
- Affordable housing and the fact that the county is falling behind in providing units. Mr. Leventhal stressed that (i) affordable housing is a huge priority, (ii) at least 12.5% of residential units in Viva White Oak will be MPDU, and (ii) housing prices will be elevated as long as Montgomery County is an attractive place to live;
- Regulations for accessory apartments; and
- Stigma related to the use of Housing Choice Vouchers and possible discrimination by landlords.

**ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life Updates:** ECCAB Chair Peter Myo Khin reported that the next meeting of committees will be a joint meeting on November 6, 2017 to allocate committee assignments and elect the chairperson for each.

**Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh** brought to the attention of meeting attendees several upcoming events, including the East County Regional Job Fair on November 2, the County's Operating Budget Community Forum on January 31, 2018, 7:00 pm, BRT Open House on November 15th and a Public Hearing on the proposed U.s 29 Ride On Bus service expansion on November 29th.

**Update from Montgomery County 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Districts Police Department:** MCPD Commander Marcus Jones reported that high school students have committed several robberies in White Oak and arrests have been made. He responded to questions regarding crime reporting and stated that weekly reports are provided on the Police Dept. website. Officer McAllister of the 4<sup>th</sup> District reported on residential burglaries, thefts from unlocked autos, and the stealing of wheels from cars.

**Update from Council Staff:** Representative Brian Anleu alerted attendees to the upcoming roadshow highlighting budgeted roadways projects. Representative Mara Parker briefed the board on the following upcoming Council events/hearings: Public Safety Commission hearing on human trafficking (Nov 6), Teenworks and Worksource Montgomery expansion (Nov. 9), Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council, ACA changes (Nov 17), MCPS school choice (Nov 27), Minimum Wage (Nov 7).

**Old Business: ECCAB Vice-Chair Curtis Watkins** gave a progress update on his proposal for community outreach “listening sessions”. Dates set for sessions to be held in Burtonsville.

**Adjournment:** This meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.